



News Release

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Department of Education Issues First Round Of Reading First Funding, \$11.5 Million Awarded

Fifty school buildings in 10 Michigan school districts have been awarded \$11.5 million as part of the federal Reading First Program, part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

The state of Michigan is among the first states to receive federal grants through the Reading First program designed to ensure that all children in the United States learn to read well by the end of third grade, said Tom Watkins, Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction.

"We are thrilled to award these dollars to our first round of local applicants," Watkins said. "These crucial resources will go a long way toward ensuring that Michigan truly leaves No Child Behind, especially for those children in critical urban at-risk areas. The Department, because of the excellent work of our staff, had a tremendous turnaround on these grants. We wanted the dollars to be in the hands of districts so they can earn the interest for our children."

School districts in Wayne, St. Clair, Genesee, Saginaw, Montcalm, Muskegon, Ottawa, and Kalamazoo Counties are the first recipients of these Reading First grant dollars, part of the federal No Child Left Behind act, passed by President George W. Bush in January.

First round grant recipients for Reading First monies include:

Dearborn City School District - Wayne County - \$595,500

Detroit City Public School District - Wayne County - \$6,494,400

Holland Public Schools - Ottawa County - \$1,149,000

Kalamazoo Public Schools - Kalamazoo County - \$735,000

Linden Charter Academy - Genesee County - \$190,500

Mosaica Academy of Saginaw - Saginaw County - \$168,750

Muskegon Public Schools - Muskegon County - \$759,750

Port Huron Area School District - St. Clair County - \$618,750

Saginaw City School District - Saginaw County - \$789,750

Threshold Academy - Montcalm County - \$93,750

The Reading First programs will fund various local district coordinated activities, including research-based, directed instruction approaches to reading, systemic attacks on urban illiteracy, and literacy coaches.

For this first round of Reading First grant competitions, MDE received proposals from 44 of the 83 eligible local education agencies. A total of \$22.7 million is available for Reading First grant competitions in Michigan. The remainder of the funds will be awarded to school districts in the second round of grant applications available in January 2003. Over six years, Michigan will receive \$186.5 million. The Reading First program is part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

The U.S. Congress appropriated \$900 million for Reading First in fiscal year 2002. Funds are allocated to states using a formula based on the proportion of children aged five to 17 who reside within the state and are from families with incomes below the poverty line.